

Boulder Coroner's Office Agrees to Test Stomach Contents in CU Student Death Case

New testing ordered after family challenges suicide ruling of Megan Trussell



Boulder, Colorado Jun 12, 2025 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Today, Vanessa Diaz, mother of Megan Trussell, the CU student who vanished from her dorm room Feb.9. and was found deceased in Boulder Canyon on Feb.15., shares that the Boulder County Coroner's Office has agreed to conduct additional testing in the case of University of Colorado Boulder student Megan Trussell. The decision follows persistent pressure from the family, who have disputed the suicide ruling since it was issued in May.

Trussell's family has been fighting for answers after what they describe as a "flawed investigation that reached conclusions without testing critical evidence." The coroner's office based its suicide determination largely on the presence of pill material in Trussell's stomach, yet never tested the contents to confirm what the material was.

The contents to be tested include a "softball-sized" mass of gray granular material found during autopsy. A pathologist associated with the case noted the mass was "larger than anything they had seen in 3,800 autopsies," raising questions about why such unprecedented evidence went untested.

"At every step, we've had to push for basic answers about what happened to our daughter," said Trussell's mother, Vanessa Diaz, who believes initial toxicology results were completed weeks before authorities told her they were still pending. "I've been part of this Colorado community my entire life, raised my children here and supported CU. We deserve transparency and thoroughness from the institutions we trust to protect our families."

Trussell's family is also calling for additional testing by the Boulder County Sheriff's Office, claiming key evidence was not analyzed, including fingernail clippings, various swaps (including a rape kit and DNA swaps), blood found near Megan's body, as well as a forensic analysis of the injury patterns spread across her body.

State Review Sought

Colorado State Sen. Janice Marchman has encouraged attention from state-level officials, citing delays in seeking state assistance, untested evidence and insufficient forensic protocols before suicide rulings.

"I don't have authority over local law enforcement or coroner offices. But I do have a responsibility to ask questions, review state laws and look for policy changes that might help families in future cases," Marchman said.

Investigation Gaps

The family and their private investigator continue to push for answers on what they consider "multiple investigative oversights":

- Authorities have not adequately explained injuries inconsistent with suicide, including severe head trauma, chipped teeth, and facial bruising described as consistent with blunt force trauma.
- Conflicting reports about whether Trussell was found covered with a tarp or blanket
- Questions about Trussell's missing shoe and damaged purse found in a separate location
- Cell phone data discrepancies between FBI and Boulder County Sheriff's Office reports
- Lack of insight into the investigation of the unhoused individual who sold Megan's phone — information the family discovered on their own

Family Statement

"We won't stop pushing until we get the truth about what happened to our daughter. No other family should have to go through what we're experiencing. We're asking the community to stand with us and demand better from our institutions. If you have information, if you saw something, please come forward. Help us get justice for Megan."

The family remains available for interviews as they continue seeking answers in their daughter's death. For tips about the case, please email TrussellTips@vigilante-pr.com. To support the family's ongoing investigation, including independent lab work and legal costs, donations can be made at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-megan-memorial-fund>.

Media Contact:

Vigilante PR

Andrea Holt - Andrea@Vigilante-PR.com

Melissa Christensen - Melissa@Vigilante-PR.com

Tips:

TrussellTips@Vigilante-PR.com

Background: Megan Trussell was an 18-year-old CU Boulder freshman who disappeared Feb. 9, 2025, and was found dead six days later. The Boulder County Coroner's Office ruled her death a suicide, citing amphetamine toxicity and hypothermia.

Media Contact

Vigilante PR

*****@Vigilante-PR.com

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